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## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Director, Foreign Broadcast  
Information Service

EXTENSION

NO.

FBIS-0476/85

DATE

21 November 1985

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and  
building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S  
INITIALSCOMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom  
to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)1. Acting Deputy Director  
for Science and  
Technology

2. Room 6E45, Headquarters

3.

4. Executive Secretary  
Room 7E12, Headquarters

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Attached is the FBIS  
contribution for National  
Intelligence Strategy: Open  
Source Exploitation.

## NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY: OPEN SOURCE EXPLOITATION

1. Open source collection gathers information from public media such as radio and newspapers, scholarly journals, and technical publications, with collection possibilities recently enhanced by radio, television, pressfax, and press agency transmissions via satellites which are subject to overt monitoring. The great increase in use of television and pressfax in foreign countries in addition to traditional modes of communication places an increased burden on collectors who must locate, select, translate and sift through a growing volume of open source information available through these varied sources. Through new technology, open source information of intelligence value is also available on commercial computer data bases.

2. Prior to the oil crises of the 1970's, U.S. intelligence interest in foreign media content was primarily related to political events, with some leavening of economic reporting. As the United States lost its overwhelming economic/technical superiority during the decade, U.S. policymakers needed more information on economic and S&T topics, not only in communist countries but throughout the world. In many cases the best, and certainly the most cost-effective, means of getting the information was through exploitation of open media. The most recent available statistics, for 1984, show that CIA analysts in the Directorate of Intelligence relied on open sources for key contributions in 52 percent of their monographs. On economic topics, open sources accounted for key contributions in over 70 percent of monographs; even for military/S&T topics, open sources were vital in more than 30 percent of the articles written.

3. The factors noted above have created new demands on open source intelligence collectors. The largest single open source collector and translator is the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS), which monitors some 7 million words daily from foreign broadcasts and regularly scans more than 6,000 foreign newspapers and periodicals in addition to monographs and books. The most significant material is immediately disseminated to major U.S. Government consumers via the 24-hour FBIS wire service, while embassies and overseas military commands are serviced directly by wire from FBIS field bureaus. FBIS is attempting to meet the challenge with a major modernization program. The key elements of the plan involve satellite monitoring, communications suitable for television and fax transmission to Washington consumers in real time, and overseas units specifically targeted against science and technology targets, including foreign commercial databases, as well as automation of significant FBIS processing functions.

4. Since 1941, FBIS has collected information from radios, the press and press agencies. Since the early 1970's it has actively targeted television and facsimile press intercepts and more recently devoted increased attention to foreign S&T sources. This proliferation of sources combined with greater output by traditional sources and increased numbers of targets of interest to policymakers have necessitated better means of

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processing materials for consumers, many of whom require information in electronic format. The FBIS automation effort is designed to improve the processing, storage, retrieval, and distribution of open source information, enabling FBIS to handle the increased volume of material and consumer demands for computer access to FBIS products. A computerized data base will be created containing all FBIS products in full text, making retrospective search available to the Intelligence Community.

5. The collection phase of the upgrade is focused in the 20 overseas FBIS posts. Three small Science and Technology units have been established in Tokyo, Antwerp, and Milan where they can scan the technical literature and subscribe to commercial data bases in West Europe and Japan. Additional units will be added as needed. FBIS has found that there are well over 500 data bases outside the United States and their number is increasing exponentially. In FY-86, FBIS will create an S&T Center to coordinate these efforts and provide improved technical coverage worldwide.

6. Many FBIS bureaus have or soon will have satellite monitoring facilities allowing them to monitor open source materials from satellites. Additional monitoring sites will be added over the next few years to accomodate changing technology as satellite "footprints" (the area in which signals can be monitored) get smaller.

7. A major problem in getting useful information from television and facsimile images has been the delay in getting visual images back to Washington consumers at a reasonable cost. The new FBIS Internet program will link selected field bureaus with Washington and have sufficient capacity to transmit television pictures. Phase I of Internet, linking Washington with London and Panama bureaus, will be completed in late CY 1986. The system will be extended as resources allow. Earlier this year, an FBIS satellite dish at Langley began live monitoring via satellite of Soviet television and selected European television, with the signals available in real time to CIA analysts.

8. With the proliferation of open source material, it is vital to devise methods of screening it before analysts are inundated to the extent that important information is missed because the information flow is too great. The function of FBIS must be to get the right information to the right people in an acceptable timeframe and in suitable format. The FBIS Modernization program is designed to do this.